

as many countries as Christians. But some of the worst abuse actually takes place in Muslim-dominated countries. In Pakistan, for example, a brutal campaign has been underway against the Shiite minority. Likewise, Iran represses the peaceful Bahai, and similarly Pakistan and other countries brutally mistreat the Ahmadis, who see themselves as Muslims but are regarded as apostates. Pakistani Ahmadis can be arrested simply for saying, "peace be upon you."

All this is a sad index of rising intolerance, for Pakistan's first foreign minister was an Ahmadi; now that would be impossible.

I hesitated to write this column because religious repression is an awkward topic when it thrives in Muslim countries. Muslims from Gaza to Syria, Western Sahara to Myanmar, are already enduring plenty without also being scolded for intolerance. It's also true that we in the West live in glass houses, and I don't want to empower our own chauvinists or fuel Islamophobia.

Yet religious freedom is one of the most basic of human rights, and one in peril in much of the world. Some heroic Muslims, like my friend Rashid in Pakistan, have sacrificed their lives to protect religious freedom. Let's follow their lead and speak up as well, for silence would be a perversion of politeness.

HONORING THE AROOSTOOK FARM OF PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aroostook Farm of Presque Isle, Maine as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Since 1914, the Aroostook Farm has served as a center for agricultural research and development, not only for Presque Isle, but for the entire state of Maine. As part of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, the Aroostook Farm works in tandem with the University of Maine as a prominent research and development facility for the Maine potato industry, a staple crop in the state's agriculture. In more recent years, the Aroostook Farm has expanded their existing research to work toward developing sustainable agricultural practices.

On Wednesday, August 13th, the Aroostook Farm will recognize 100 years of research, community involvement, and advancement in agriculture. The Aroostook Farm embodies Maine values by representing the importance of agriculture and educational advancement, practices that have taken place on the farm for the last 100 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Aroostook Farm in Congress, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Aroostook Farm and its involved community, and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

HONORING CHIEF STEVEN CURRAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Steven Curran for his 23 years of service with the United States Navy and congratulate him on his retirement.

Chief Curran currently serves with the Navy Medicine National Capital Area as the Senior Enlisted Leader for both the Navy Medical Support Detachment and the Human Resources Department of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During his time with the Navy, he received three Navy Commendation Medals, five Navy Achievement Medals, Surface Warfare designation, the Command Career Counselor badge, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and various other unit and campaign medals.

His legacy of service also extends to the community, where, for decades, he has been involved in everything from acting as the President of the NHCQ Chief Petty Officer Association, to being a volunteer mentor in a high school student ministry.

After 20 years, Chief Curran is still happily married to the former Dawn LaPere, and they have two children. Emma, their first child, is eight years old and their son Sam will be two in September. After Chief Curran retires, the family will move to Savannah, GA where Chief Curran will be the Small Groups Pastor at Savannah Christian Church.

In honor of his years of commitment and sacrifice for his country, I am pleased to recognize Chief Steven Curran and offer my best wishes in his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 428–432, I am not recorded because I was absent from the House of Representatives due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 428, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 429, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 430, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 431, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 432, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING LIEUTENANT ALICE WARREN OF THE BAKER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Alice Warren of the City of Baker Police Department, located in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to join Lt. Warren in commemorating and celebrating her sixteen years of dedicated service to the Baker community in the state of Louisiana.

Over the past sixteen years, Lt. Warren has worked in several capacities within the Baker Police Department. Lt. Warren began her career with the Department as a Communications Officer and was later promoted to Police Officer in the Uniform Patrol Division. Lt. Warren continued her ascent when she was promoted to Patrolman First Class and then to Sergeant. In September of 2011, Lt. Warren was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant. In this role, Lt. Warren holds the distinction as being the first and only female to hold this position with the Baker Police Department.

In addition to Lt. Warren's long record of accomplishment and achievement, she should also be commended for her courage, outstanding service and heroic sacrifice in protecting and defending the residents of the City of Baker on a daily basis. On behalf of the residents of Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District, I congratulate Lieutenant Alice Warren on her many outstanding years of service and her invaluable contribution to the Baker Police Department.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

URGING THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an issue that is near and dear to many constituents in my district.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the decades-long struggle to find a common ground between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. On July 20, 1974, Turkey deployed its military forces to the island of Cyprus, separating thousands of families from their homes and dividing the sovereign nation in half.

Today, there are still many challenges that the Greek and Turkish Cypriots need to resolve before reunification can take place. While the path won't be easy and it will take the political courage of both sides, I am confident that a peaceful resolution can be found.

On February 11, 2014, the two Cypriot leaders, Nicos Anastasiades and Dervish Eroglu, renewed negotiations for a Cyprus settlement. This Joint Statement reflects the spirit of compromise and lays down a solid foundation for result-oriented talks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in urging for the peaceful reunification of the island of Cyprus and I call upon the United States to do everything it can to support both sides in this process.